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FANTASTIC 4

MILLAR•HITCH•SMITH

A team--and a family--of adventurers, explorers and imaginauts, the Fantastic Four lead lives both ordinary--and extraordinary!

Reed Richards' former love Alyssa Castle re-enters his life to show him Nu-World, a project she and her husband have developed as an exact replica of the planet Earth to be inhabited when our world dies. They had no way of knowing that it would never be offered to the masses...until a band of Earth's future inhabitants, the New Defenders, came back seeking asylum. Oh, and there are about eight-billion other refugees of the used-up Earth of the future ready to travel back right behind them.

The leader of the New Defenders, a years-older Sue Richards, had developed a machine that used Johnny, evil mastermind Doctor Doom, and devourer of worlds Galactus as an engine for the world's largest time machine, to bring them all to Nu-World, the asylum they had been promised. In the course of the porting, Johnny was slightly singed and Galactus was burnt out...but Doom was angry as hell. And he had no problem rectifying the situation by obliterating his captor, Future-Sue, before anyone could stop him.

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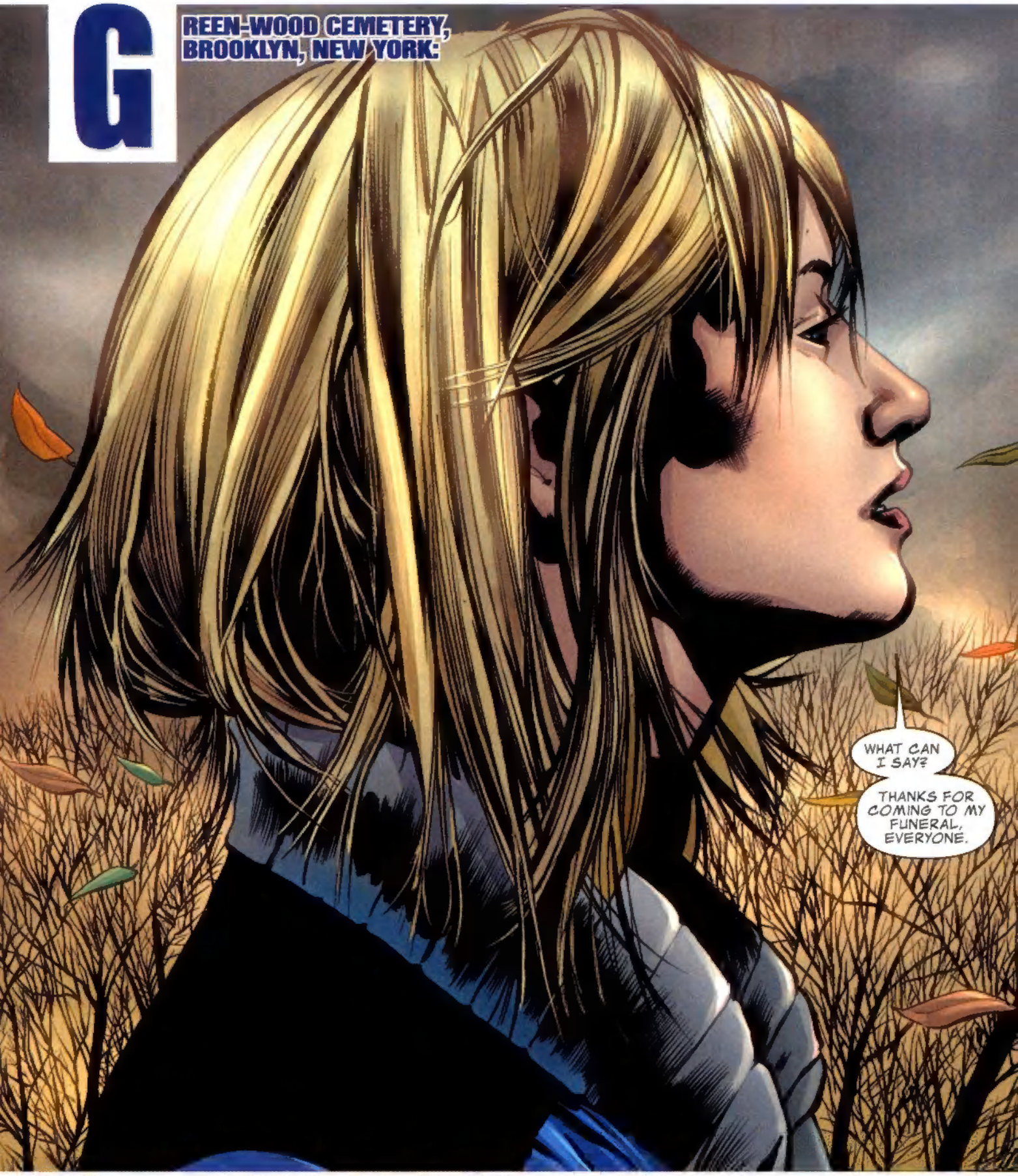


REQUIEM

BY MARK MILLAR & BRYAN HITCH

INKS BY CAM SMITH & ANDREW CURRIE COLORING BY PAUL MOUNTS LETTERING BY VC'S RUS WOOTON

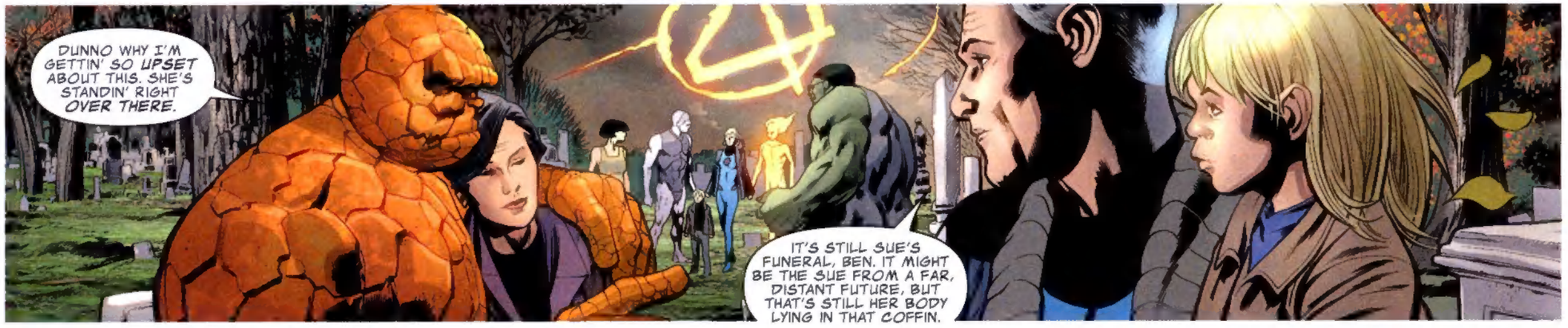
ASSOCIATE EDITOR: JEANINE SCHAEFER EDITOR: TOM BREVOORT EDITOR IN CHIEF: JOE QUESADA PUBLISHER: DAN BUCKLEY

THIS IS OBVIOUSLY A SPEECH I NEVER EXPECTED TO MAKE. BUT THAT'S THE THING ABOUT BEING IN THIS FAMILY. YOU NEVER KNOW *WHAT* TO EXPECT.

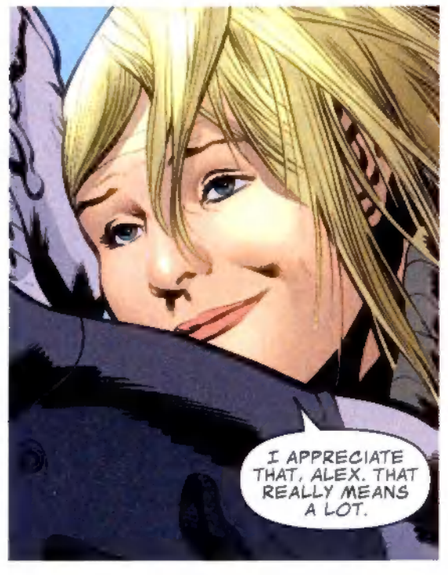
OBVIOUSLY, I'M PLEASED TO SEE SO MANY OLD FACES HERE, AND TOUCHED TO SEE ALL THE NEW ONES, TOO. IT SEEMS I LIVED A GOOD, LONG LIFE AND MADE THE GREATEST FRIENDS IN THE WORLD.

BUT PLEASE DON'T FEEL SAD. I DIED AN OLD WOMAN IN A PLACE I CALL ***HOME***. I DIED TO SAVE OUR ***ENTIRE FUTURE*** AND THERE IS NO GREATER HONOR THAN THAT.

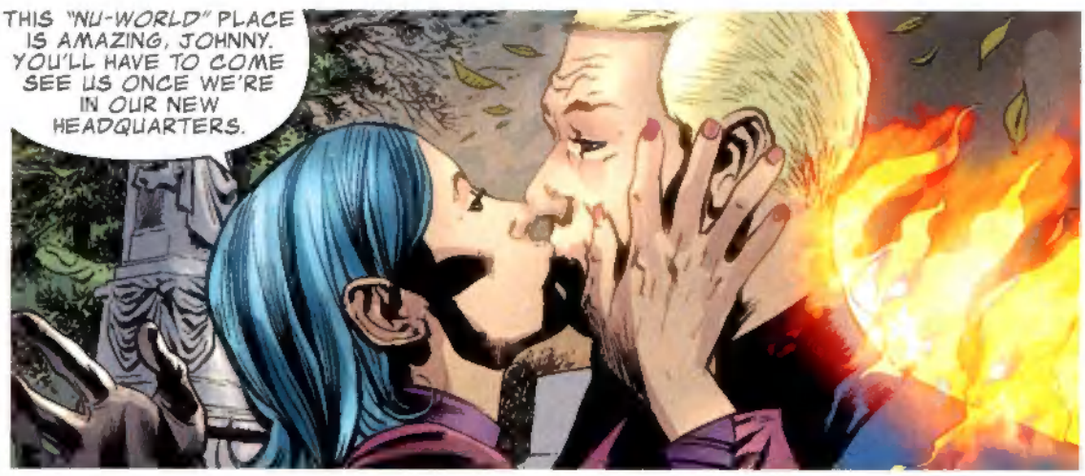
DEARMYA


DUNNO WHY I'M GETTIN' SO UPSET ABOUT THIS. SHE'S STANDIN' RIGHT OVER THERE.
IT'S STILL SUE'S FUNERAL, BEN. IT MIGHT BE THE SUE FROM A FAR, DISTANT FUTURE, BUT THAT'S STILL HER BODY LYING IN THAT COFFIN.

I'M GOING TO MISS YOU SO MUCH. I KNOW WE HAVEN'T ACTUALLY MET YET, BUT I WANT YOU TO KNOW YOU WERE THE BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON OUR LIVES.


I APPRECIATE THAT, ALEX. THAT REALLY MEANS A LOT.

ARE WE COOL, JOHNNY?
SURE WE'RE COOL. YOU DID WHAT YOU HAD TO DO, CINDY. THE LIVES OF EIGHT BILLION PEOPLE WERE AT STAKE.


THIS "NU-WORLD" PLACE IS AMAZING, JOHNNY. YOU'LL HAVE TO COME SEE US ONCE WE'RE IN OUR NEW HEADQUARTERS.

YOU BET, BABY. THE BAND'S ON TOUR FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, BUT THE MINUTE OUR SCHEDULE CLEARS I'LL DEFINITELY BE OVER.

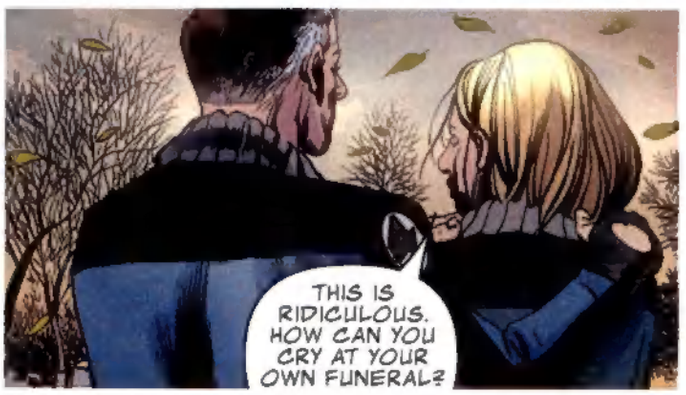
I JUST WANTED TO THANK YOU BEFORE WE LEFT, DOCTOR RICHARDS. ALL WE WANTED WAS CLEAN AIR AND A WATER SUPPLY, BUT YOU GAVE US A VIRTUAL *NIRVANA*.
IT'S ALYSSA YOU SHOULD BE THANKING, BRUCE. SHE'S THE ONE WHO RISKED IT ALL BY OPENING THE DOORS TO YOUR REFUGEES.
I CAN'T SAY IT'S MADE ME ESPECIALLY POPULAR, BUT SOMETIMES YOU JUST HAVE TO DO THE RIGHT THING.

I COULDN'T AGREE MORE.

YOU GOTTA BE KIDDIN' ME.
DON'T EVEN ASK.

SUE, LISTEN. DEBBIE AND I ARE GONNA TAKE OFF. WE'RE HAVIN' DINNER WITH HER FOLKS TONIGHT, BUT I JUST WANTED TA SAY HEY BEFORE WE GO.
GUYS, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR COMING. OF ALL THE WEIRD THINGS WE'VE DONE OVER THE YEARS THIS HAS TO BE THE WEIRDEST. I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MUST THINK OF ALL THIS, DEBBIE...

OH, GOD. I'M SORRY.


THIS IS RIDICULOUS. HOW CAN YOU CRY AT YOUR OWN FUNERAL?

HOW COULD YOU NOT?
SUSAN STORM RICHARDS

THE BAXTER BUILDING:

HOW'S MOM HOLDING UP?

ABOUT AS WELL AS YOU'D ***EXPECT***. I JUST WISH I DIDN'T HAVE TO LEAVE HER ALONE AND ATTEND DOOM'S ***HEARING*** THIS EVENING.

ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO TRY TO SAVE HIM FROM THIS ***EXECUTION*** THE WORLD IS ASKING FOR?

HE'S STILL A HUMAN BEING, VALERIA. ***REGARDLESS*** OF WHAT HE DID TO YOUR MOTHER...

ANYWAY: WHAT'S THIS BIG SURPRISE YOU'RE BUILDING? MOM SAID IT'S SOMETHING FOR OUR ***VACATION*** NEXT WEEK.

IT'S A TRAILER FOR THE FANTASTI-CAR THAT'S TWO HUNDRED TIMES BIGGER ON THE INSIDE THAN IT IS ON THE ***OUTSIDE***.

I GOT THE IDEA FROM THAT DOCTOR WHO SHOW ON THE SCI-FI CHANNEL.

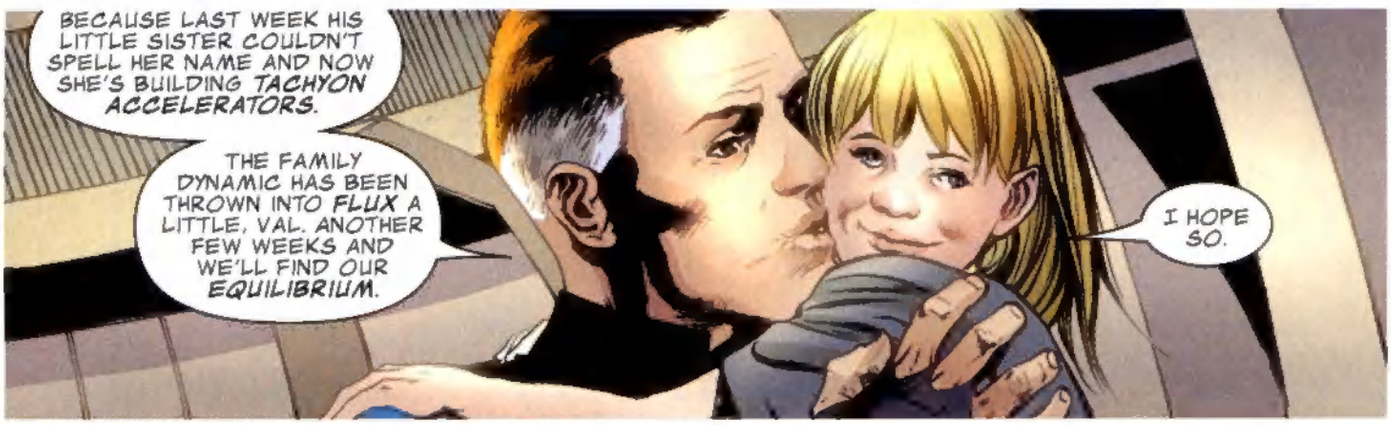
I THOUGHT WE DECIDED DOCTOR WHO WAS TOO ***SCARY*** FOR LITTLE GIRLS.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? I WATCH IT TO CALM DOWN AFTER THE STUFF WE SEE IN ***REAL*** LIFE.

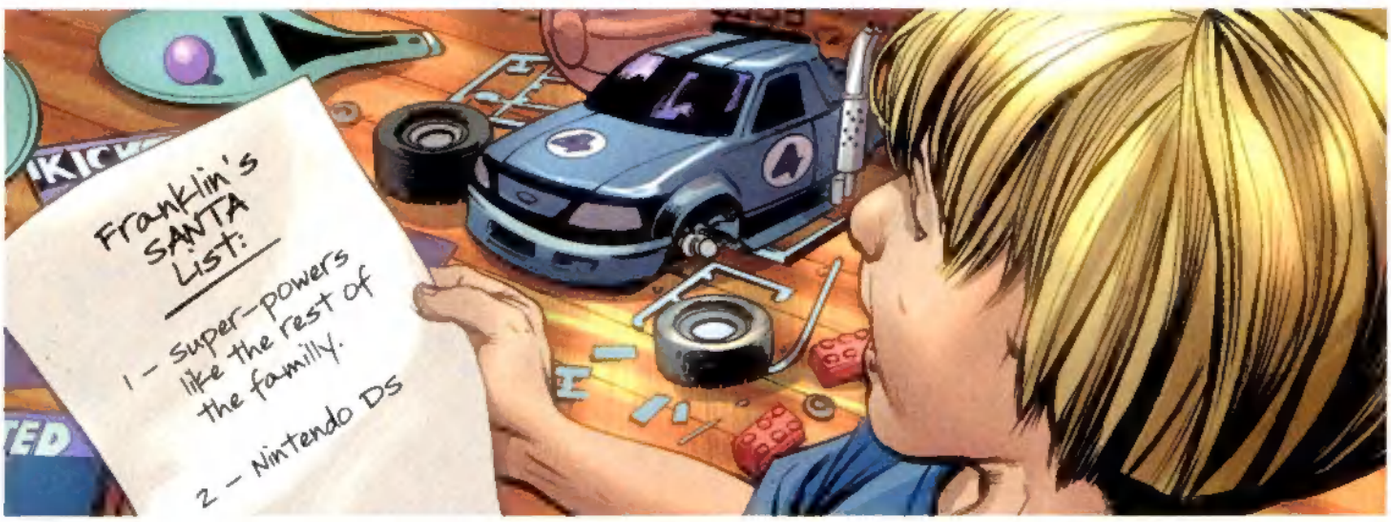
IT'S GOT FOUR BEDROOMS, A FUNCTIONING LAB... AN OMNI-SCOPE OVER THERE IN THE CORNER... AND I WAS THINKING WE COULD EVEN PUT A DREAM MACHINE DOWNSTAIRS.

OH, VALERIA...

I WANT YOU TO KNOW HOW PROUD WE ARE, HONEY. I KNOW YOU WANTED TO KEEP YOUR INTELLECT A SECRET, BUT WE COULDN'T BE HAPPIER YOU'VE FINALLY COME CLEAN.
SO WHY DOES FRANKLIN FREEZE UP WHEN I WALK IN A ROOM?


BECAUSE LAST WEEK HIS LITTLE SISTER COULDN'T SPELL HER NAME AND NOW SHE'S BUILDING TACHYON ACCELERATORS.
THE FAMILY DYNAMIC HAS BEEN THROWN INTO FLUX A LITTLE, VAL. ANOTHER FEW WEEKS AND WE'LL FIND OUR EQUILIBRIUM.
I HOPE SO.

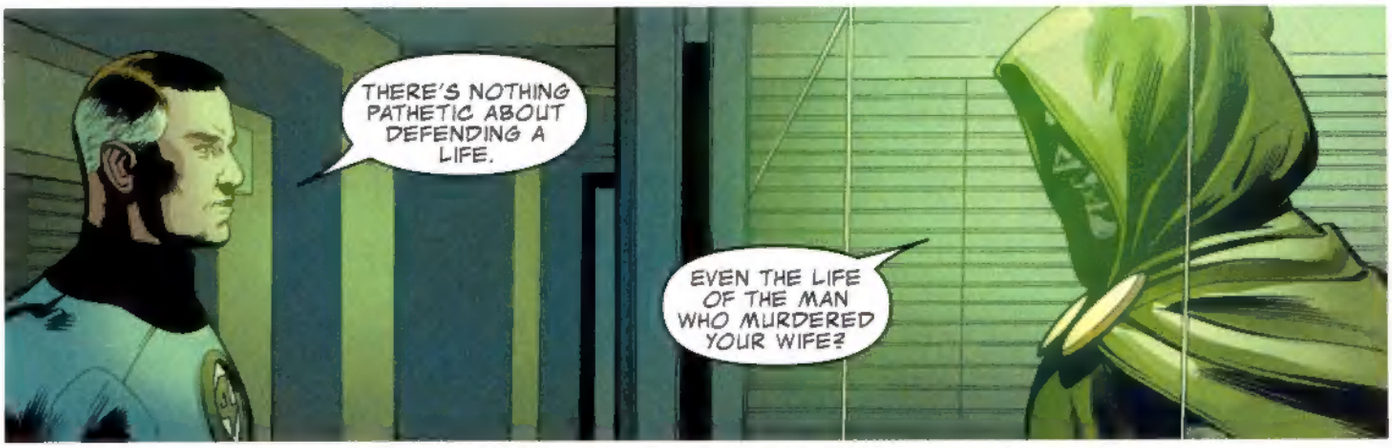
UPSTAIRS:


Franklin's SANTA List:
1 - Super-powers like the rest of the family.
2 - Nintendo DS

THE HAGUE

READY WHEN YOU ARE, COLONEL.
5
5

LIGHTS ON IN CELL ONE-FIVE-TWO.


THERE'S NOTHING PATHETIC ABOUT DEFENDING A LIFE.
EVEN THE LIFE OF THE MAN WHO MURDERED YOUR WIFE?

EVEN YOU.

THAT'S WHY I'M GOING TO WIN. THAT'S THE ADVANTAGE I'M ALWAYS GOING TO HAVE...
...BECAUSE I SHALL NEVER BE AFRAID TO MAKE THAT FINAL BLOW. I WILL GRIND YOUR SKULL BENEATH MY HEEL MOST ENTHUSIASTICALLY.

ACTUALLY, YOU WON'T BE HURTING ANYONE FOR A LONG, LONG TIME.
IDIOT! THE AVENGERS' ASSAULT UPON MY COUNTRY WAS A WAR CRIME.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU WERE ARRESTED FOR CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY.
WE'LL SEE.

BUT DOOM HAS FRIENDS IN THE HIGHEST OF PLACES. WHEELS ARE ALREADY TURNING TO UNDO THIS RIDICULOUS ARREST...

I THINK I'M READY TO LEAVE NOW, GUARDS.
...AND THEN THERE'S MY MASTER, OF COURSE.
WHAT?
THE MAN WHO TAUGHT ME EVERYTHING I KNOW. THE FIRST SUPER-VILLAIN, IF YOU WILL.
CAN'T YOU HEAR HIM CROSSING THE STARS? HIS FOOTSTEPS GETTING CLOSER AND CLOSER?
HE HAS SUCH PLANS FOR HUMANKIND. AN APPETITE FOR DEATH THAT CHILLS EVEN MY BLACK HEART...
IS THIS SOME KIND OF JOKE?
NINE WEEKS, MY DEAR RICHARDS.
I WONDER IF THAT WIFE OF YOURS CAN DIE TWICE, EH?

I MEAN, WITH ME IT'S ALL SCHOOL AND SHOPPING AND ARGUMENTS WITH MY STUPID LANDLORD. I BET MY PARENTS SEEMED INSANE.
NAH, THE RED SKULL'S INSANE. YER FOLKS ARE JUST A LITTLE CRAZY.
DON'T HATE THEM, BEN. THEY MIGHT PUT ME DOWN AND MAKE ME FEEL BAD ABOUT MY BODY OR WHATEVER, BUT THEY'VE ALWAYS REALLY BEEN THERE FOR ME. WHEN IT'S COUNTED, I MEAN.
CAN I ASK YOU A PERSONAL QUESTION, DEBS?
IS IT ABOUT MY EX-BOYFRIEND? I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT WHEN MOM BROUGHT HIM UP BECAUSE I HAVEN'T SEEN JASON IN CLOSE TO SIX MONTHS...
ARE YOU A SKRULL?
WHAT?
OR A CRAZY KILLER ROBOT? OR SOME POOR SAP BEIN' MANIPULATED BY THE PUPPET MASTER?
NO.
I'M JUST AN ORDINARY GIRL FROM BROOKLYN, AS YOU VERY WELL KNOW.

THAT'S GOOD. I GUESS IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I MET A CHICK LIKE YOU, I HAD TA ASK AN' MAKE SURE FIRST...

OH MY GOD.

WELL?
WHAT'S IT GONNA BE?